

**WEST LAFAYETTE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**  
**WEST LAFAYETTE CITY BUILDING**  
**WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA**

**TIME:** 5:00 pm, Wednesday, June 18, 2008

**PLACE:** Lower Level Conference Room

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Dave Buck	John Cox	Chris Leroux
	Vicki Burch	David Downey	Chris Pekny
	Eric Burns	Carrie Ehresman	Kumares Sinha
	David Christian	Bernadette Farris	Boudewijn Van Gelder

<b>VISITORS:</b>	Beth Cook	Ann Hunt	Jan Myers
	Wendy Field	Jim Knapp	Karen O'Farrell
	Jeromy Grenard	Michael Malik	Jonathan Ondracek

Chairman Sinha called the meeting to order and determined there was a quorum. Mr. Christian made a motion to approve the May minutes, Mrs. Farris seconded and the May minutes were approved as written.

Mrs. Ehresman wished to thank Dave Downey and Chris Leroux for their work with the Triple XXX's car show which benefits the Shop with a Cop program.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**08-06 Proposed Changes to City Code Sections 41.09 and 41.10**

City Attorney, Eric Burns, stated that the proposed changes to city code will add four additional citizen members to the commission; two at-large representatives, one Tippecanoe County School Corporation representative and one additional representative from the business community. The proposed changes will also mean that city representatives will no longer hold voting positions.

Mr. Burns stated that the changes will better reflect the "citizen based" nature of the commission. Ms. Ehresman made a motion that the proposed changes to city code be approved. Mr. Christian seconded and the proposal passed with a recommendation that the word "councilmanic" as listed on the draft version, be changed to the word "council". Mr. Burns will take the recommendation to the city council for approval.

**08-05 Pedestrian Crossings**

At the first location, Grant Street at North Street, Mr. Grenard is recommending a marked mid-block crossing on Grant Street, just north of North Street, with a paddle style sign between the two northbound lanes. The sign would remind drivers that state law requires them to yield for pedestrians. Street markings would be added to identify the pedestrian crossing.

Captain Leroux asked if the mid-block crossing and related signage would be enforceable. Mr. Buck replied that the Engineer's office will look into the "enforceability" of a mid-block crossing. Mr. Buck asked the commission for comments. Chairman Sinha replied that a mid-block crossing was a reasonable solution. Captain Leroux stated that he liked the concept. He just wanted to make sure we could enforce it. Mr. Downey asked if a speed table with a raised 8' crosswalk had been considered for this location.

At the second location, Columbia and Northwestern, Mr. Grenard recommended that we refresh the existing pedestrian crossings, add a new stop bar to Columbia, place a one-way sign on Northwestern opposite the Columbia Street approach, and add additional directional lane painting on Northwestern. The new pavement markings will also serve to remind drivers that Northwestern is one-way in this area. He also recommended looking at the four parking spaces in front of the library on Northwestern. The top two spaces are a vision obstruction for motorists turning from Columbia onto Northwestern. The bottom two spaces are a vision obstruction for motorists on Northwestern as they approach Columbia. Because parking is at a premium in the village area, it may be difficult to justify removing two spaces.

Other options discussed for this location included "bump-outs" on Northwestern at Columbia, and the possibility of making Columbia one-way. Bump-outs would make the pedestrian crossing distance shorter, but would increase the cost of the improvement. Making Columbia east-bound only, would eliminate the left turns from Columbia onto Northwestern. Mrs. Ehresman suggested that a one-way change could impact surrounding businesses. Chairman Sinha encouraged the Engineer's office to look into the advantages of an eastbound only Columbia. Mrs. Ehresman suggested we contact surrounding businesses and advise them we are discussing traffic issues in their area.

The third location is on Grant Street at the Wood Street parking garage. Mr. Grenard stated that there are three exits from the garage, so pedestrians cross everywhere. There is also a tunnel which connects the garage to the grad house. The most likely crossing point is to the entrance of the grad house. The island that pedestrians would cross to has no curb ramps, so any crossing to this location would require the installation of several curb ramps. This would be a very expensive improvement, with little likelihood it would be used by pedestrians. No mid-block crossing at this location is recommended at this time.

At the final location, between the south entrance of the Grant Street parking garage and the PMU Grant Street entrance, Mr. Grenard did not recommend adding a mid-block crossing for the following reasons: curb ramps on the east and west sides of Grant are not well aligned, and there is currently a tunnel from the parking garage to the PMU at this location.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **08-11 Red Light Cameras**

Captain Leroux stated that the city was looking at doing some red light camera studies at the intersections of Stadium and University, and Salisbury and Lindberg. No dates have been decided, but he would like to do one study now and one study in the fall when the students return. He will bring some more information to the commission in the fall. Chairman Sinha stated that this is a good thing and may encourage people to slow down.

### **08-12 Speed Limit Russell/Waldron/University Island**

Interim Purdue Police Chief, John Cox, asked the commission to consider reducing the speed limit to 20 mph on Russell, Waldron and University streets. Mr. Cox stated that Purdue has resigned its surrounding streets to 20 mph. Mr. Buck stated that the city will perform a speed study in that area, and may look at pedestrian issues at Third & Russell and First & Russell.

### **08-13 Bexley Parking**

Mr. Van Gelder brought to the commission a concern he received from a citizen with regard to the renovation planned for Mackey Arena. The concern was that parking will move into the neighborhoods once the renovation is under way. Visitor, Jim Knapp, stated that Purdue has already asked its consultant to look into the possibility of adding a parking lot across from Bexley to help reduce that possibility.

**NEXT MEETING:** 5:00 pm, Wednesday, July 16, 2008.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D.M. Buck', written in a cursive style.

David M. Buck, P.E.  
City Engineer

DMB/wf